

In the Claims

Please amend claims 2, 7 and 12 as set forth below. Please cancel claims 1 and 3-4 without prejudice. Claims 9-10 and 13-14 have been withdrawn.

The present listing of the claims replaces any prior listing and upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting ~~altered~~ expression of growth differentiation factor-5 (GDF-5) in a tissue of a specimen ~~subject in need thereof~~, comprising contacting ~~a GDF-5 specific~~ an antibody that specifically binds a GDF-5 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:13, or an antigen binding fragment of ~~said GDF-5 specific~~ the antibody, with a tissue specimen of the subject ~~suspected of having altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide~~, and detecting binding of the antibody or the antigen binding fragment of the antibody, wherein an increased or decreased level of binding to the specimen as compared to binding to a control group specimen ~~specimens of normal subjects~~ is indicative of altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide in the subject, wherein the specimen is from uterine neoplasm tissue or endometriosis tissue or skeletal tissue ~~wherein the specimen of the subject suspected of having altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide and the specimens of normal subjects are obtained from the same type of tissue.~~

3. (Cancel)

4. (Cancel)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detecting is *in vivo*.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detection is *in vitro*.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is detectably labeled ~~comprises a detectable label~~.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the detectable label is a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, a bioluminescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an enzyme, a colloidal metal, a phosphorescent compound, or a paramagnetic isotope.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody comprises a hapten coupled thereto.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the hapten is biotin, dinitrophenyl, puridoxal, or fluorescein.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen binding fragment of the ~~GDF-5 specific~~ antibody is an a Fab fragment or an F(ab')₂ fragment.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment of the antibody is bound to a solid phase carrier.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the solid phase carrier comprises glass, polystyrene, polypropylene, polyethylene, dextran, nylon, amylase, natural cellulose, modified cellulose, polyacrylamide, agarose or magnetite.